

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 2, 10, 27, 37 and 38, all other claims having been cancelled.

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner in charge of the application for the courtesies extended to him at the interview on March 26, 2003 at which time, the office action was discussed.

The Examiner objected to the drawings and indicated that drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner wanted all of the claimed means to be shown in the drawings and the proposed drawing changes should be submitted with the response.

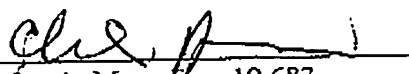
It should be noted that the claims are illustrated in each of the figures. With respect to claim 2, this is illustrated in Figure 2 and is discussed on page 24. With respect to claim 37, this is illustrated in Figure 3 and discussed on page 27. The system of claim 38 is shown in Figure 9. Therefore, all drawings clearly illustrate the claimed features and therefore, no amendments are needed.

All of the claims were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of the elements.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection since the claims are believed to be in proper relationship. To clarify the various means, they have been numbered as A, B, C, etc. Also, the claims have been amended to recite the means for crushing the refuse secondary batteries which was inadvertently omitted from the generic claims previously. The steps are sequential in nature and this is believed to be clear from the claim and therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Claim 2 (thrice amended) A system for recovering valent metals from refuse secondary batteries comprising A) a means for crushing refuse secondary batteries, B) a separating means to mechanically separate the crushed refuse secondary batteries and to separate them into a separated cathode material and a separated anode material, C) a fusing means to add calcium to the separated cathode material separated by the separating means and to fuse it to recover the valent metals, and D) a means to recover valent metals from the separated anode material obtained by the separating means.

Claim 37 (amended) A system for recovering valent metals from refuse secondary batteries comprising A) a means for crushing refuse secondary batteries, B) a separating means to mechanically separate the crushed refuse secondary batteries and to separate them into a separated cathode material and a separated anode material, C) an oxidizing means to oxidize the cathode material separated by the separating means at a temperature lower than 300°C for recovering the valent metals, and D) a means to recover valent metals from the separated anode material obtained by the separating means.

Claim 38 (amended) A system for recovering valent metals from refuse secondary batteries comprising A) a means for crushing refuse secondary batteries, B) a separating means to mechanically separate the crushed refuse secondary batteries and to separate them into a separated cathode material and a separated anode material, C) a reduction fusing device to reduce and fuse the separated cathode material by separating device after adding either carbon or plastic to the cathode material and D) a decarbonizing device to heat the separated cathode material under an oxidized atmosphere and to oxidize and remove carbon contained in the valent metals either prior or following the reduction fusing process, thereby recovering the valent metals, and E) means to recover valent metals from the separated anode material obtained by the separating means.